Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for amplification of at least one nucleic acid, comprising the following steps:

(1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid to be amplified, wherein the nucleic acid contains ~~at the 5' end~~ an oligonucleotide sequence Y at the 5' end and ~~at the 3' end~~ an oligonucleotide sequence Z at the 3' end, and[[,]] the nucleic acid carries ~~at the 5' end~~ a means for ~~attaching~~ immobilizing the nucleic acid to a solid support at the 5' end;

(2) mixing the at least one nucleic acid template, in the presence of a solid support, with one or more colony primers X, each of which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carries ~~at the 5' end~~ a means for ~~attaching~~ immobilizing the colony primer[[s]] to a solid support at the 5' end, ~~in the presence of a solid support so that~~ whereby the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers ~~bind~~ are immobilized to the solid support; and

(3) performing one or more nucleic acid amplification reactions on the ~~bound~~ immobilized nucleic acid template, so that nucleic acid colonies are generated.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to oligonucleotide sequence Y and colony primer X is of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.

3. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two different colony primers X are mixed with the at least one nucleic acid template in step (2) of claim 1, and wherein the sequences of the two different colony primers X are such that the oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence Y is the same as the sequence of one of the colony primers X.

4. (Currently amended) A method for amplification of at least one nucleic acid, comprising the following steps:

(1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid to be amplified, wherein the nucleic acid contains ~~at the 5' end~~ an oligonucleotide sequence Y at

the 5' end and ~~at the 3' end~~ an oligonucleotide sequence Z at the 3' end, and[[,]] the nucleic acid carries ~~at the 5' end~~ a means for ~~attaching~~ immobilizing the nucleic acid to a solid support at the 5' end;

(2) mixing the at least one nucleic acid template, in the presence of a solid support, with one or more degenerate colony primers X, each of which can hybridize to an oligonucleotide sequence in the at least one template at a site flanking the nucleic acid sequence which is to be amplified and carries ~~at the 5' end~~ a means for ~~attaching~~ immobilizing the colony primer[s] to a solid support at the 5' end, ~~in the presence of a solid support so that~~ whereby the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers ~~bind~~ are immobilized to the solid support; and

(3) performing one or more nucleic acid amplification reactions on the ~~bound~~ immobilized nucleic acid template, so that nucleic acid colonies are generated.

5. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the~~ an additional step of performing at least one step of sequence determination of nucleic acid templates in one or more of the nucleic acid colonies ~~generated~~.

6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sequence determination step involves ~~the~~ incorporation and detection of labelled ~~oligo~~nucleotides.

7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the full or partial sequences of ~~the amplified~~ nucleic acid templates present in more than one nucleic acid colonies are determined simultaneously.

8. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising ~~the~~ an additional step of visualising the nucleic acid colonies ~~generated~~.

9. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said visualisation step involves the use of a labelled or unlabelled nucleic acid probe.

10. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for ~~attaching~~ immobilizing the nucleic acid template and the colony primers to the solid support

comprises a means for ~~attaching~~ immobilizing the ~~nucleic acid sequences~~ nucleic acid template and the colony primers covalently to the said support.

11. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said means for ~~attaching~~ immobilizing the nucleic acid sequences covalently to the solid support is a chemically modifiable functional group.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said chemically modifiable functional group is a phosphate group, a carboxylic or aldehyde moiety, a thiol, a hydroxyl, a dimethoxytrityl (DMT), or an amino group.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said chemically modifiable functional group is an amino group.

14. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said solid support is selected from the group comprising latex beads, dextran beads, polystyrene, polypropylene surfaces, polyacrylamide gel, gold surfaces, glass surfaces, and silicon wafers.

15. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the solid support is glass.

16. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the density of the nucleic acid colonies ~~generated~~ is 10,000/mm^2 to 100,000/mm^2.

17. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the density of colony primers X attached to the solid support is at least 1 fmol/mm^2.

18. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the density of nucleic acid templates is 10,000/mm^2 to 100,000/mm^2.

19-34. (Canceled)

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4403.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 18 NOV 2004

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